

nuclear nations promised to deliver on the Test Ban Treaty in exchange for the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is a good deal that must be honored.

The Test Ban Treaty enjoys broad support. If the Senate is allowed to vote on the treaty this year, it would likely win the 67 votes needed for ratification. Current and past U.S. military leaders support the treaty, including Gen. Colin Powell and three other former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The public also strongly supports a permanent end to nuclear testing. A September 1997 national opinion poll revealed that 70 percent of the public wants the Senate to approve the treaty; only 13 percent oppose it.

Unfortunately, the leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is preventing the full Senate from considering the treaty. The committee needs to be persuaded to send the Test Ban Treaty to the Senate floor.

In the interest of a safer America and a more secure world, senators who recognize the risk of nuclear proliferation and the value of the test ban must provide the leadership necessary to allow the Senate to debate and vote on the treaty this year.

The time for nuclear testing is over. The time to approve the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is now.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESTATE AND GIFT TAX RATE REDUCTION ACT

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, it's been said that only with our government are you given a "certificate at birth, a license at marriage and a bill at death." Today I am introducing the Estate and Gift Tax Rate Reduction Act which seeks to phase-down the onerous death tax. Each death tax rate will be reduced by five percentage points every year, until the highest rate bracket—55%—reaches zero in 2009. As these rates are lowered to zero, more and more families will no longer be forced to give the family savings to Uncle Sam and the family business will be saved.

One of the most compelling aspects of the American dream is to make life better for your children and loved ones. Yet, the current tax treatment of individuals and families and families at death is so onerous that when one dies, their children are many times forced to sell and turn over more than half of their inheritance just to pay the taxes. It takes place at an agonizing time for the family; when families should be grieving for a loved one, with friends and relatives, rather than spending painful hours with lawyers and bureaucrats.

By confiscating between 37% and 55%, the estate tax punishes life-long habits of savings, discourages entrepreneurship and capital formation, penalizes families, and has an enormous negative effect on other tax revenues. Americans today are living longer and enjoying their retirement. At a time when this Congress is discussing the future of Social Security, and how to personalize and modernize the system, we also need to encourage private investment. We should be encouraging people to plan for their future with retirement plans and IRAs, rather than encouraging reck-

less spending and a me-first attitude. This country was born on the promise of hope and opportunity, and by taxing families and businesses at their most agonizing time, we destroy their hope for the future.

By today's tax system, it is easier and cheaper to sell a business before death rather than try to pass it on after. More than 70% of family business and farms do not survive through the second generation. 9 out of 10 successors whose family-owned businesses failed within three years of the principal owner's death said trouble paying estate taxes contributed to the company's demise. For family owned business, this is a tax just because the business is changing ownership due to the death of an owner.

Aside from being a source of revenue, another express purpose of the estate tax was to break up large concentrations of wealth. 75 years later, however, reality suggests that rather than being an important means for promoting equal economic opportunity, the estate tax is in fact a barrier to economic advancement for people of all economic circumstances. It unduly burdens individual sacrifice to gain savings and investment, compared with consumptive uses of income. It impedes the upward mobility of labor by stifling productivity, wage growth, and employment opportunities. In effect, the death tax, which was established to redistribute wealth, hurts those it was meant to help—namely, America's working men and women. When small businesses close their doors, loyal employees lose their jobs.

The saying goes that death and taxes are the only certainties in life. I believe it is ridiculous that the government force the American people to deal with both on the same day. Families should be allowed—and encouraged—to save for future generations. I invite my colleagues to join JOHN TANNER and me in our bi-partisan effort to reduce this detrimental and cruel tax.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRFAX CITY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 2702

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 1998, the Fairfax City Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association, Local 2702, is celebrating their 20th Anniversary. No matter what the emergency is, their members are committed to providing outstanding emergency services to those in need. They are dedicated to fulfilling their organization's goals of saving lives, preserving property and the environment and ensuring the health and safety of our community.

Local 2702 was officially chartered on May 16, 1979 as a local union of the International Association of Fire Fighters. The 22 charter members were: Dennis Rubin, Larry Retzer, John Boon, Joel Hendelman, Mike Kalasanckas, John Long, Dwaine McCollum, Donald Barklage, Jr., Robert Keith Cunningham, Joseph Toy, Thomas Schwartz, Jeffery Sheriff, Joseph Bailey, George Brown, Charles Johnson, George Klumph, William

Burris, Kenneth Hill, Dennis Rust and Gary Jones.

Since their inception, they have been led by strong leadership focused on ensuring that their department has the personnel and resources to safely and efficiently perform their jobs of helping the public. Dennis Rubin, John Boon, Ken Hahn, Richard Miller, Joel Hendelman, Frank Hall, and Jay Callan have served as President. Today, President Adrian Munday leads Local 2702 in serving the needs of the City of Fairfax's 20,000 residents.

The members of local 2702 respond to an astounding 8,000 fire and emergency calls a year. That's an average of 22 calls a day, which equals to almost one call per hour.

When not answering calls for help, Local 2702's members spend countless hours in the community teaching fire prevention, CPR, and other safety courses, conducting home safety inspections, installing fire detectors, and conducting child safety seat inspections. Furthermore, they support several charities, such as: Aluminum Cans for Burned Children, Muscular Dystrophy Association's Fill The Boot Campaign, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, Fairfax Little League, Braddock Road Youth Clubs, the International Association Fire Fighter's Fallen Fire Fighter Fund, and Heros Inc.

Local 2702 also answers the call for help from other Fire Departments in need around the country during times of crises. Last year, when North Dakota was devastated by rushing waters of a terrible flood, Local 2702 spent several days running calls for many of their fire departments so their fire fighters could return to their homes to be with their families and salvage their homes. When Hurricane Andrew touched down in Homestead, Florida, Local 2702 collected clothes and helped rebuild homes in this ransacked area. After the tragic bombing of Oklahoma City, Local 2702 provided financial assistance to families with children injured by the blast.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I salute these heroes of public service. For all their extraordinary services, we owe the members of Local 2702 a debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE LANSING

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an obituary of Marjorie Lansing, which appeared in the New York Times on Monday, May 11, 1998.

Marjorie Lansing, a political scientist and sometime politician whose scholarly delineation of a gender gap in American voting patterns helped change the shape of political campaigns and spurred women into politics in the 1980s.

Ms. Lansing died on May 1 at a hospital near her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was 82 and had been a professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University. Her family said the cause was cancer.

Though Dr. Lansing was not the first to investigate women's voting patterns, the issue received little serious attention until she published the first persuasive statistical evidence that women form a distinctive voting